

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action.

The Examiner objected to the drawings "because some of the figures numeral number are hand written and shadow." Formal drawings were submitted in this application on March 15, 2005. The formal drawings contain no handwritten portions. Therefore, no additional replacement drawings are being submitted with this response.

The Examiner objected to the abstract for being longer than 150 words. The present amendment to the specification provides a replacement abstract that is less than 150 words.

This application is a national stage application of PCT/2003/008231. Claim amendments to PCT/2003/008231 were filed with the Japanese receiving office. A translation of said claim amendments was provided to the USPTO with the filing of this national stage application on February 7, 2005. Thus the claim amendments should have been entered in this application. The content and status identifiers for claims 1-9 in the Listing of Claims (pages 4-7 of this paper) reflect the amendments to PCT/2003/008231.

Claims 2, 3 and 5-9 are currently amended.

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Higuchi. Claim 1 was canceled by the above-noted claim amendments to PCT/2003/008231.

Claim 2 requires an annular diffusion plate, light sources which are allocated annularly, and an annular reflection plate. Further, the diffusion plate, light sources and reflection plate are respectively allocated in order from a side of an object to be detected. Higuchi teaches a reflection plate for a liquid crystal display. However, Higuchi lacks any teaching of an annular diffusion plate, light sources which are allocated annularly, or an annular reflection plate.

Claim 2 also requires an annular fixing plate on which a light source for diffused light and a light source for directional light are disposed. Higuchi does not teach such an annular fixing plate on which light sources are disposed.

Claim 2 further requires an illumination apparatus having a through-hole formed at a center portion. Higuchi does not teach such a through-hole. Higuchi teaches groove-like concave portions 4 (see, e.g., 6:57-67 and Fig. 1 and 2), which do not teach or suggest a through-hole.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Higuchi does not anticipate claim 2. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 2 is allowable over Higuchi. Claims 3-9 depend from claim 2.

Claim 3 requires that the light source for directional light is attached through a flexible elastic pin from the fixing plate. Higuchi does not teach a flexible elastic pin. For at least this reason, Higuchi does not anticipate claim 3.

Claim 7 requires a control section which carries out recognition processing of the object to be detected, by use of the image which was picked up. Higuchi does not teach a control section that carries out recognition processing by use of a picked-up image. For at least this reason, Higuchi does not anticipate claim 7.

Claims 8 and 9 depend from claim 7. Therefore, the arguments provided above with respect to claim 7 also apply to claims 8 and 9. Claims 8 and 9 are directed to a component mounting apparatus having a transfer head. Higuchi does not teach a component mounting apparatus having a transfer head. For at least this reason, Higuchi does not anticipate claim 3.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the

application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. NGB-37596.

Respectfully submitted,
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